

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2009**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:50 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

James E. Kinard, Jr., Chairman
William C. Billy Derrick
Debra B. Debbie Summers

George H. Smokey Davis, V. Chairman
Bobby C. Keisler

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Fleet Vehicle Replacement Grant Application (Goal 3) - Coroner's Office - Harry O. Harman, Coroner - Mr. Brian Setree, Chief Deputy Coroner, presented a request to apply for the Fleet Vehicle Replacement Grant in the amount of \$105,570. There is no County match required. The funds will be used to replace three vehicles in the Coroner's fleet. One of the replacement vehicles will be a four-wheel drive SUV. The current vehicles have more than 80,000 miles and would be up for replacement in the capital replacement plan. (The Coroner will be responsible for repairs and maintenance of these vehicles in his budget.)

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Fleet Vehicle Replacement Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Forensic Death Investigative Grant Application (Goal 3) - Coroner's Office - Harry O. Harman, Coroner - Mr. Brian Setree, Chief Deputy Coroner, presented a request to apply for the Forensic Death Investigator Grant in the amount of \$121,452. There is no County match required. The funds will be used to add one forensic death investigator position in addition to purchasing a four-wheel drive SUV and necessary equipment for this individual. The grant is for a three-year period; however, the Coroner's office will have to re-apply and renew the grant each year. Chief Setree said the plan is to add this program to the Coroner's budget once funding runs out at the end of the three-year period. The Committee asked how the Coroner would accommodate the new position at the end of the grant period. Chief Setree replied that the

Coroner's office would be researching ways to fund the investigator prior to that time including charging fees for services such as autopsies, permits and copies of reports. Staff requested to provide information on how the Coroner's office will continue to support this program at the end of the grant. This is part of the government stimulus funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Forensic Death Investigator Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Courthouse Security Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel

- Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Courthouse Security Grant in the amount of \$632,816. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to include personnel and remove the County match. The funds would be used for enhancement to the current courthouse security to include three new security officers, training, 24/7 contracted surveillance cameras, and additional security equipment. This is a three-year grant; however the Sheriff's Department will have to reapply and renew each year. Col. Paavel reported after the three-year grant period the Sheriff's department will absorb the personnel into the Sheriff's budget. He said the Sheriff's department will investigate ways to do this prior to the end of the grant period.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Courthouse Security Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Gang Task Force Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel -

Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Gang Task Force Grant in the amount of \$498,495. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to include personnel and remove the County match. The Sheriff's Department plans to designate officers who will be assigned to investigate gang-related activities in Lexington County. The funds will be used for four gang investigators and purchase four vehicles dedicated to the task force and necessary equipment. This is a three-year grant; however the Sheriff's Department will have to reapply and renew each year. (The Gang Task Force will be continued once the grant funds run out with funds the Sheriff's Department receives from tax revenues and other revenues they receive within the fiscal year.)

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Gang Task Force Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Multi-Crime Scene Investigative Unit Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department -

Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Multi-Crime Scene Investigative Unit Grant in the amount of \$273,250. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to add additional crime scene processing equipment and remove the County match. This is the third and final year for this grant. The funds are used for two CSI investigators, operating costs, and equipment. (The Multi-Crime Scene Investigative Unit will continue operating from funds the Sheriff's Department receives from tax revenues and other revenues received within the fiscal year.)

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Multi-Crime Scene Investigative Unit Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Records Management System Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Records Management System Grant in the amount of \$1,695,000. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to remove the County match. This is a one-year grant and will be used to acquire and implement a new integrated Records/CAD/Jail Management System that would be a comprehensive system to include incident reporting, crime reporting, state NCIC messaging, mobile field reporting, jail management, and computer aided dispatch. Col. Paavel reported funds have already been set aside for the Records Management System and a committee has been formed to do a RFP (Request for Proposal).

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's recommendation to apply for the Records Management System Grant.

The Committee asked about the number of record keeping/data systems approved and changed over the years if it was just a function of the improvement of systems. Col. Paavel replied the current records management system is an in-house system is about twenty-five years old, does not have the interface capabilities, and is very limited in the information that can be retrieved. He said a "unitized" records management system would allow multiple sources to tie into the case and court management system.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Regional DNA Laboratory Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Regional DNA Laboratory Grant in the amount of \$721,403. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to remove the County match. The

funds will be used to establish a regional DNA laboratory that would apply to everyone in the 11th Judicial Circuit and includes two new positions to operate the forensic DNA laboratory as well as purchasing necessary equipment and operating supplies. This is a three-year grant; however the Sheriff's Department will have to reapply and renew each year.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Regional DNA Laboratory Grant.

The Committee asked if this request is due to SLED services being cut to the County in the future. Col. Paavel replied that the Sheriff's Department has been put on notice that SLED is looking at restricting the cases being submitted and there are concerns with the long turn-around times. He said they are already paying an outside laboratory for tests needed.

The Committee asked about possible fees for out-side agencies who will be utilizing the laboratory services. Col. Paavel responded that since it would be a regional lab it would not be appropriate to charge fees to another regional agency, however, fees could be established when the grant ends.

The motion in favor was unanimous.

School Resource Officers Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the School Resource Officers (SRO) Grant in the amount of \$255,410. This is part of the government stimulus funding. Due to the stimulus money available, the original application has been amended to remove the County match. The funds will be used for three school resource officers for Carolina Springs, Batesburg-Leesville and Sandhills Middle Schools. This is the third and final year of funding. Once the funding runs out the officers will be added to the SRO contract with the school districts and the cost will be split 50/50 with the Sheriff's Department. Col. Paavel said no additional personnel are being requested.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Derrick to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the School Resource Officers Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Violence Against Women Act Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Colonel Paavel presented a request to apply for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant in the amount of \$320,398. The grant is funded at 100 percent, but there is a twenty-five percent in-kind match required. Col. Paavel said because of the particular funding source there is no limit to the number of years that the Sheriff's Department can apply and get approved for the VAWA grant. If approved, this would be the third year for the grant, which

currently funds an investigator and program coordinator for the criminal domestic violence program. The Sheriff's Department is requesting two additional positions, a specialized victim's advocate and an additional Criminal Domestic Violence (CDV) investigator, as well as operating supplies and capital items.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of February 24, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the February 24, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk